



College Operation Guidelines

Aboriginal Education

Rationale

Emmanuel Catholic College recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first inhabitants of Australia and embrace one of the oldest continuing cultures in the world. The Whadjuk Nyungar people are the original inhabitants of the Beeliar (Bilya) region in which Emmanuel Catholic College resides. Emmanuel Catholic College embraces the cultural origins of Beeliar and appreciates the unique culture and benefits that the Whadjuk people have made. As a school community to honour this, we are committed to raising awareness and providing all our students with an increased understanding and knowledge of the Aboriginal people of Australia.

At Emmanuel Catholic College we have a responsibility to uphold this commitment as it links to our College Core Values; “we will show respect, compassion and service to others” and to coincide with this, Emmanuel Catholic College is committed to maximising the learning opportunities for Aboriginal people and aim to close the educational gap between non-Indigenous and Indigenous people to fulfil our college core value of being “consistent and fair” to all students. In upholding these values, Emmanuel Catholic College plays a large role in developing positive attitudes, knowledge and behaviours that continue to promote reconciliation within the whole school community.

Definitions

Aboriginal refers to the original inhabitants of Australia and respectfully includes Torres Strait Islander people.

The term *parent* is not limited to the Western nuclear family definition, but rather reflects complex and dynamic Aboriginal kinship systems regulated by social bonds, physical and emotional relationship to country, and connections to ancestral spirits.

NAIDOC is the acronym refers to ‘National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee’.

AILO is the acronym referring to the Aboriginal Islander Liaison Officer

RAP is the acronym referring to the Reconciliation Action Plan

Scope

This policy applies to all staff, classrooms, students, parents and the wider community members of Emmanuel Catholic College.

Principles

Principles of this policy are:

- Aboriginal people have a rich history, culture and spirituality that can be shared with all Australians.

- Emmanuel Catholic College is committed to increasing knowledge and understanding of the histories, cultures and experience of Aboriginal people as the first peoples of Australia.
- Aboriginal students at Emmanuel Catholic College have the right to be provided with educational experiences comparable to all Australians whilst maintaining their cultural identity and learn in a culturally safe and supportive learning environment.
- Emmanuel Catholic College is committed to reconciliation which promotes the principles of inclusivity, fairness, respect, equity and justice.
- Increase Aboriginal students' attendance and retention rates.
- To work in partnerships with families, school staff and the AILO to support the educational and wellbeing of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Procedure

- The College will have an Aboriginal Education Plan which will be implemented in conjunction with the College RAP.
- Ensure all Aboriginal students are on a Personal Learning Plan as per the requirements of government funding.
- Acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and culture as one of the three Cross-curricular priorities of the curriculum and integrate Aboriginal Education into all areas of the curriculum, through the partnerships of Heads of Learning Area, GECKOS Coordinator and the AILO.
- Increase knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures through NAIDOC and Sorry Day whole school assemblies, activities and staff Professional development days.
- Provide additional support to students through the service of the AILO to ensure a smooth transition into the culture and expectations of Emmanuel Catholic College.
- Provide multiple opportunities for Aboriginal students to increase their knowledge and awareness of Indigenous Culture and history and promote the reconciliation process by participation in various camps, excursions, incursions and guest presenters organised by the AILO.
- Involving non-aboriginal students and staff to be part of cultural, community and whole school activities to promote acceptance and reconciliation within the Emmanuel Community.
- Continue to build and increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolments, through the promotion of the Aboriginal Scholarship program, and AILO partnerships with feeder schools.
- Encourage excellence and effort through the Aboriginal student graduate award, in association with the City of Cockburn and presented annually to a Year 12 student based on criteria as per the Awards policy.
- Explore various community programs and organisations that assist pathways to post-school opportunities, including, but not limited to; Aspire, Notre Dame Walyalup Day and UWA Discovery Day.

Related Documents

Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-B3 'Aboriginal Education'